

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed June 27, 2005. Claims 1-37 have been cancelled. New claims 38-74 have been added. Thus, claims 38-74 are pending in the case. Reconsideration of the present case is earnestly requested in light of the following remarks.

Telephone Interview

Applicant and Examiner Zhen conducted a telephonic interview on September 13, 2005. In that interview, Applicant and the Examiner discussed Applicant's independent claims and Meyer (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,296), as well as previous amendments and prior discussions with Examiner Tang, specifically, the features emphasizing that a process specification/script and a block diagram are distinct and are each specified by distinct user input. Examiner Zhen suggested that claim 25 should be amended to include similar emphasis, and to properly define what is meant by "block diagram". Applicant agreed to amend claim 25 accordingly.

New Claims

Per the telephone interview with the Examiner (see above), Applicant has cancelled claims 1-37, and has written new claims to clarify that the plurality of steps/script/plurality of operations and the block diagram are distinct from one another, and created in response to distinct user input. Additionally, the meaning of the term "block diagram" has been clarified.

As an example, new claim 62 includes the (amended) subject matter of previous claim 25 (now cancelled):

62. A method for specifying a computer-implemented process, the method comprising:

receiving first user input indicating operations to be performed on an object;

storing a plurality of steps in a script in response to the first user input, wherein each step is operable to perform an operation; and

creating a block diagram in response to second user input, wherein the block diagram specifies a decision operation based on execution results of the plurality of steps,

wherein the block diagram comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes which visually indicate the decision operation;

wherein the decision operation is distinct from the operations to be performed on the object, and wherein the block diagram is distinct from the script;

wherein the script and the diagram collectively specify the computer-implemented process.

As argued in the previous Response, which is hereby incorporated by reference, Meyer is directed to creation of a data flow diagram (block diagram), specifically, a Grafcet diagram, and does not teach or suggest separate creation of a process specification or script that is distinct from the block diagram, and that in conjunction with the block diagram, collectively specifies a computer-implemented process.

Additionally, as argued previously in detail, combining Meyer with the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (MPCD) is improper, due to lack of motivation provided by the prior art. Moreover, as also argued in detail in the previous Response, even were Meyer and MPCD properly combinable, which Applicant argues they are not, the resulting combination would still not produce Applicant's invention as represented in claim 62, since neither reference teaches or suggests how the systems of Meyer and MPCD may operate in conjunction.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons provided above and in the previous Response, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 62 and claims dependent therefrom are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited art, and are thus allowable.

As presented above, Applicant has also cancelled independent claims 1, 21, 26, 27, and 35 and written new independent claims to simplify the claim language and clarify the claimed invention scope, and has further written their respective dependent claims accordingly. No new matter has been added. Applicant believes the claims as currently written are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited art, and are thus allowable, and so requests removal of the rejections of the claims.

CONCLUSION

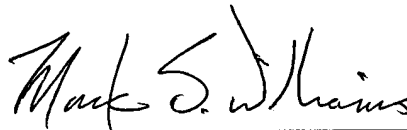
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-52800/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



Mark S. Williams
Reg. No. 50,658
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: September 15, 2005 JCH/MSW